



Congressman Eliot Engel

Dear Neighbor,

This update contains information on some of my recent actions representing you in Congress.

In recent months, as a member of the Subcommittee on Health in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, I worked to pass legislation to improve senior health care, and am working to change how Social Security COLA increases are calculated to benefit seniors.

My actions in Congress have resulted in a 100% rating from the Alliance for Retired Americans.

In addition, I have obtained Federal funds for senior programs in the Bronx, Rockland and Westchester, and continue to work to protect and improve Social Security.

If I can be of assistance to you or your community, please do not hesitate to contact one of my District Offices listed on the back.

Sincerely,



Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel, Member of Congress

100%

CONGRESSIONAL VOTING RATING

– Alliance of Retired Americans

US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3217

Official Business

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M.C.

Presorted Standard

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Update: Congressman Eliot Engel

LEGISLATION PASSED TO PROTECT SENIORS' ACCESS TO THEIR DOCTORS

In November the "Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act" to preserve seniors' access to their doctors passed the House of Representatives with Congressman Engel's support.

It repeals the 21% scheduled decrease in Medicare payment to doctors in 2010 that could have resulted in doctors deciding to not treat Medicare patients. It replaces it with a more stable system.

Supported by the AARP and American Medical Association, the legislation also promotes primary care and offers incentives for doctors to provide seniors with higher quality health care.

"Medicare is a lifeline for America's seniors. **This legislation takes important steps to strengthen it and to ensure that seniors receive the highest quality of care,**" Engel stated.

ENGEL DEMANDS A MORE ACCURATE COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR SENIORS

Congressman Eliot Engel has demanded that the formula used to determine Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) be changed to reflect senior living costs.

He wants to replace the current Cost of Living Index with

the Experimental Consumer Price Index for Americans 62 Years of Age and Older (CPI-E) used by Bureau of Labor Statistics to calculate seniors' living costs.

Congressman Eliot Engel has introduced legislation to mandate a 3% minimum annual increase no matter which formula is used.

ENGEL SUPPORTED HEALTH CARE REFORM PROTECTS SENIORS, IMPROVES SERVICES

The House recently passed the Affordable Health Care for America Act. It would improve Medicare and health care services for seniors. In part, the legislation would:

- End the Part D "donut hole" where seniors pay for drug coverage without a drug benefit.
- Eliminate all co-payments for preventive health care.
- Increase funding to combat waste, fraud and overpayments to insurance companies that drain resources from Medicare. This could extend the solvency of Medicare for years to come.

The *AARP Bulletin* reported in November that "Federal examiners estimated that **at least 10% of the \$500 billion spent annually on Medicare is wasted...**" That is \$50 billion a year that is wasted.